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# Senior Executive Intelligence Brief

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**Tuesday, 3 October 2000**

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## Regional Notes

### EUROPE

FRY:

*Analytic Perspective*

#### Milosevic Heading for Second-Round Win

President Milosevic is likely to win his gamble to hang on through a second round of voting on Sunday because the opposition's general strike will not have enough time to drive him from office.

- The greatest threats to the regime are strikes by coal miners and oil refinery workers, which could force electricity rationing within a few days, but they are not likely to drive Milosevic from office before Sunday.

*Milosevic yesterday charged that the opposition's goal is the breakup of Serbia, which could set the stage for imposing a state of emergency in response to the protests. Opposition leaders immediately branded his remarks a threat to the Serb people.*

The general strike is critical for the opposition because it will indicate whether the people will take the risks of confrontation necessary to oust Milosevic. Opposition candidate Kostunica overcame Serb political apathy to win the first round, but he must prevent new apathy from undermining the strikes.

- The opposition plans to intensify the strikes into the weekend to try to disrupt the voting.

It is unlikely, however, that Milosevic would attempt a crackdown before the second round of elections.

- The strikes could pit police against workers, galvanizing the populace to greater protests and straining police loyalties.

The opposition shows no sign of abandoning its plan to boycott the runoff. Milosevic is counting on the boycott to help him declare victory.

- The boycott will keep down voter turnout and ensure the absence of effective opposition monitoring at the polling stations.

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A second-round victory for Milosevic might muddy the waters over the legitimacy of the first round just enough that many Serbs would not be willing to stay in the streets. Opposition unity may begin to fray as disagreements over strategy and tactics—now behind the scenes—come into public view.

#### Ultimate Outcome Less Clear

The end for Milosevic—if it came—would be sudden, most likely soon after the runoff. It would require heavy pressure from the streets, the public loss of Russian support, and voices from within the regime—voices Milosevic could not ignore, such as Army Chief of Staff Pavkovic—telling him he has to go.

- Moscow may threaten not to recognize a Milosevic victory if he does not allow independent monitoring of the voting, which would undermine his claim to the presidency.

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